

THE CAPTURE OF FORT HENRY.

The Official Report of Flag Officer Foote.

INTERESTING DETAILS.

NAMES OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

See, &c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1862.

The following is an official copy of the report of Flag Officer Foote to the Navy Department relative to the capture of Fort Henry—

Cairo, Ill., Feb. 12, 1862.

Sir—I have the honor to report to you on the 6th inst., at half past twelve o'clock P. M., I made an attack on Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river, with the ironclad gunboats Cincinnati, Commodore St. Louis, the Essex, Commodore Porter, the Carondelet, Commander Walker, and the St. Louis, Lieutenant Commander Pendergast, also taking with me the three old gunboats Conestoga, Lexington, and the Tyler, Lieutenant Commander Stirling, as a second division, in charge of Lieutenant Commander Phelps, which took a position astern and in shore of the armed boats, doing good execution there in the action, while the armed boats were in the first order of steaming, approaching the fort in parallel line.

The fire was opened at one thousand seven hundred yards distance from the flag ship, which was followed by the other gunboats and responded to by the fort. As we approached the fort, the slow steaming till we reached within six hundred yards of the rebel batteries, the fire both from the gunboats and the fort increased in rapidity and accuracy of range.

At twenty minutes before the flag was struck the Essex immediately received a shot in her boiler, which resulted in the wounding and scalding of twenty-nine officers and men, including Commander Porter, as will be seen in the enclosed list of casualties.

The Essex then necessarily stopped on line astern, and was disabled and unable to continue the fight, in which she had so gallantly participated until the sad catastrophe.

The firing continued with unabated rapidity and effect upon the three gunboats, as they continued still to approach the fort with their destructive fire, until the rebel flag was hauled down after a very severe and closely contested action of one hour and fifteen minutes.

A boat containing the Adjutant General and Captain of Engineers came alongside after the flag was lowered, and reported that General Lloyd Tighman, the commander of the fort, wished to communicate with the flag officer when he descended from the fort, and that the Lieutenant Commander Phelps, with orders to host the American flag where the rebel ensign had been flying, and to inform General Tighman that I would see him on board the flag ship. He came on board after the Union had been substituted for the rebel flag on the fort and possession taken of it. I received the General and his staff and some sixty or seventy men as prisoners, and a hospital ship, containing sixty invalids, together with the fort and its effects, mounting twenty guns, mostly of heavy calibre, with barracks and tents capable of accommodating 15,000 men, and sundry articles which, as far as the fort and its effects were concerned, I ordered General Phelps, with his division, up the Tennessee river, as had previously directed, and as will be seen in the enclosed order to him, to remove the rail, and so far render the bridge of the railroad for transportation and communication between Bowling Green and Columbus secure, and afterwards to pursue the rebel gunboats and secure their capture if possible.

This being accomplished, and the army in possession of the fort, and my services being indispensable at Cairo, I left Fort Henry in the evening of the same day, with the Cincinnati, Essex and St. Louis, and arrived here this morning.

The armed gunboats resisted effectively the shot of the enemy, when striking the casemates.

The Cincinnati, the flag ship, received thirty-one shots; the Essex, fifteen; the St. Louis, seven, and the Carondelet, six; killing one and wounding nine in the Cincinnati, and killing one in the Essex, while the casualties in the latter from steam amounted to twenty-eight in number. The Carondelet and St. Louis met with no casualties.

The steamers were admirably manœuvred by their commanders and crews, presenting only their bow guns to the enemy, to avoid the exposure of the vulnerable parts of their vessels.

Lieutenant Commander Phelps, with his division, also executed my orders very effectively, and promptly proceeded up the river in their further execution after the capture of the fort. In fact, all the officers and men gallantly performed their duty, and, considering the little experience they have had under fire, far more than realized my expectations.

Fort Henry was defended with the most determined gallantry by General Tighman, worthy of a better name, who, from his own account, went into the action with eleven guns, and twenty-two men, and, on our side, only thirty men, and a few pieces of artillery.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary Navy, Washington.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

ON BOARD THE CINCINNATI.

ON BOARD THE ST. LOUIS.

See—I have the honor to report that the casualties on board the vessel during the bombardment of Fort Henry, from the effects of the enemy's fire, were as follows:

Wounded, none. Total, ten. Respectfully,

H. N. FLEMING, Surgeon.

Commander, United States Navy.

FOOT H. FORT, Commanding Naval Forces, Western Waters.

See—As Captain Porter is unable to write, he has advised me to send you a list of killed, wounded and missing on this vessel—

W. D. Porter, commander, scalded.

J. H. Lewis, gunner, scalded.

T. P. Perry, third mate, scalded badly.

A. B. Britton, master's mate, killed by cannon shot.

James McBride, pilot, killed by scalding.

Archibald H. Ford, pilot, killed by scalding.

John Matthews, quartermaster, badly scalded.

A. B. Wadsworth, captain of forecastle, missing.

Henry Gompier, steward, scalded.

Samuel Taylor, fireman, scalded badly.

John Adams, stowman, missing.

James C. Kelly, scalded by scalding.

H. H. Hays, scalded.

Thomas Hays, scalded.

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The fire was opened at one thousand seven hundred yards distance from the flag ship, which was followed by the other gunboats and responded to by the fort. As we approached the fort, the slow steaming till we reached within six hundred yards of the rebel batteries, the fire both from the gunboats and the fort increased in rapidity and accuracy of range.

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